



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700  
Tel: 510.464.7700  
TDD/TTY: 510.464.7769  
Fax: 510.464.7848

## *Memorandum*

TO: Advisory Council

DATE: May 5, 2009

FR: Therese Trivedi

RE: Staff Liaison Report

### Follow-up on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

1) Attached is the summary information from the Caltrans disparity study. The full report can be found online at [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/study/disparity\\_study.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/study/disparity_study.htm)

2) A person who is "disabled" may apply to the DBE program by demonstrating social and economic disadvantage on a case-by-case basis. The DBE regulations provide the following guidance regarding individual determinations of disadvantage:

"At least one objective distinguishing feature that has contributed to social disadvantage, such as race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, long-term residence in an environment isolated from the mainstream of American society, or other similar causes not common to individuals who are not socially disadvantaged;

(B) Personal experiences of substantial and chronic social disadvantage in American society, not in other countries; and

(C) Negative impact on entry into or advancement in the business world because of the disadvantage....[R]ecipients will consider education, employment and business history, where applicable, to see if the totality of circumstances shows disadvantage in entering into or advancing in the business world."

In addition, DOT states, "the Department notes that people with disabilities have disproportionately low incomes and high rates of unemployment. Many physical and attitudinal barriers remain to their full participation in education, employment, and business opportunities available to the general public. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in recognition of the discrimination faced by people with disabilities. It is plausible that many individuals with disabilities -- especially persons with severe disabilities (e.g., significant mobility, vision, or hearing impairments) -- may be socially and economically disadvantaged."

### Focus Forums

As reported last month, the FOCUS program is hosting a number of upcoming forums, meeting with three-e (economy, environment, and equity) stakeholder groups to let them know about FOCUS, seek comments and suggestions, and identify opportunities to work together around common objectives. FOCUS is a regional planning effort that encourages future Bay Area growth near transit and in existing communities so that our natural environment and quality of life can continue to improve. It is an initiative of four regional agencies: the Association of Bay Area Governments

(ABAG), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), in partnership with congestion management agencies and local governments throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

- **Air Quality in Our Communities**  
Thursday, May 14, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
BCDC, McAteer Petris Room  
50 California Street 26th Floor  
San Francisco
- **Development with Diversity**  
Thursday, June 25, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
The Urban Center  
654 Mission Street, San Francisco
- **Health in Urban Areas**  
Thursday, July 9, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

For more information, visit [www.bayareavision.org](http://www.bayareavision.org) or contact JoAnna Bullock, 510.464.7968, [joannab@abag.ca.gov](mailto:joannab@abag.ca.gov).

#### New Staff Liaison

I have recently accepted new responsibilities at MTC and, after this month, I will no longer be the staff liaison to Advisory Council. Jennifer Yeamans, who works on the Lifeline Transportation Program and equity issues, will be the new staff liaison. Jennifer can be reached at [jyeamans@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:jyeamans@mtc.ca.gov) and 510.817.5764.

#### Packet Attachments

The packet includes the following materials:

- Agenda Item 4 – *Information* – Summary information from the Caltrans disparity study
- Agenda Item 6 – *Information* – No handout – oral presentation at the meeting
- Agenda Item 7 – *Information* – No handout – will be provided at the meeting
- Agenda Item 8 – *Information* – HOT Lane PowerPoint slides - Developing a Regional Express Lane Network
- Agenda Item 9 – *Discussion* – Staff memo and PowerPoint slides
- Agenda Item 10 – *Discussion* – No handout